

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:718
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
EXPANSION OF TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK
P.D. ELANGO VAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are expanding telecommunication network in the country in collaborations with private sector;
- (b) if so, the details of the investments made by the said sector for the purpose;
- (c) the areas in which private sector's investments are being made; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to enhance the communication network at cost effective in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total investment in the major telecom service sector by private operators upto 31.3.2000 is approximately Rs.16564.38 Crores. The break-up is as under:-

Basic Services	Rs.	3605.48 Crores
Cellular Mobile Telecom Services	Rs.	11860.91 Crores
V-SAT	Rs.	184.52 Crores
Mobile Radio Trunk Service	Rs.	250.00 Crores
Paging Service	Rs.	663.47 Crores

(c) The private sectors investment are being made in all the areas barring International Long Distance. Government has already announced that the International Long Distance will be opened for private sector participation in April 2002.

(d) Year-wise plans are drawn to enhance the communication network depending on the availability of funds. Tariff for telecom services is being fixed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanaga Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are also following the cap fixed by TRAI. Private sector participation is also being encouraged in Telecom sector. Thus cost effective services are being offered in the country.